

OPPOSITION TO DEMOCRATS' PROPOSED ENERGY BILL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Democrats' proposed energy bill that would only hurt hardworking Americans through raising taxes, forcing the cost of gas and home heating oil to increase, and inflicting massive job losses as a result.

In the 109th Congress, I distinctly remember the Democrats continually saying that the Republicans were outsourcing jobs. With increased taxes, many hardworking Americans in the oil industry will lose their jobs to overseas corporations, not only hurting the American worker, but also increasing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil.

We have not built a refinery in America since 1976, which further has added to our dependence on foreign oil by giving the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, massive control over us.

Madam Speaker, if we want true energy reform, we must begin to build refineries, allow for responsible exploration of energy within our own borders, and invest in energy alternatives.

Raising taxes, causing job losses and increasing fuel costs are not the answer. If we fail to act in a responsible manner, we are continuing to allow ourselves to be at the mercy of OPEC and the nations that control it.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 74) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 74

Resolved, That the following named members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Bonner, Mr. Garrett of New Jersey, Mr. Barrett of South Carolina, Mr. McCotter, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Mr. Hensarling, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren of California, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Mack, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Campbell of California, Mr. Tiberi, Mr. Porter, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Smith of Nebraska.

(2) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Manzullo, to rank after Mr. Rohrabacher.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE HILL OF OPPOSITION

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. My colleagues, a few years ago I was doing some climbing of hills and mountains in Colorado, and when I had started my journey I looked up into the hills and it looked like it would take a few hours to climb to a hill. I started my climb and I finally got there, it took about a half a day. And when I got to the top of this hill, when I was first starting I thought I would just get there and I am right at the top, I am at my destination; but as I got to that top of that hill, I saw there was another hill, and I had to climb another half day.

This Congress is about to climb a hill, and that hill is opposition to the escalation. But when we climb that hill, we are only going to be halfway there because the top of the hill we've got to reach, that second hill, is called "ending the occupation." Stopping the escalation is only half the journey here, we have to end the occupation.

Similarly, people say, well, now they oppose the war. Well, opposing the war, well, that is halfway up that hill. Take that journey. But going all the way up the hill you are going to have to say, stop the funding for the war. The Kucinich plan enables us not only to stop the funding for the war, but to secure Iraq and create a whole new America and world.

"FOREIGN CRIMINALS ARE FREE" IN THE CITY BY THE BAY?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. When foreigners commit crimes, serve their time, they should be sent back to their native land; but some jurisdictions ignore this commonsense idea and foreigners are not deported. In fact, an audit ordered by this Congress showed that foreign citizens get arrested, go to jail, and on an average—get this—six more times they are arrested after they are released from American jails and not deported. That's right, foreigners commit a crime, go to jail, then cities let them hang around to commit more crime in the "Land of the Free."

The Federal Government has even dumped taxpayer dollars into jurisdictions to help the cost of jailing these foreign criminals. Some jurisdictions take the money but don't help with sending these outlaws back home. San Francisco took \$1 million, but, folks, it is a "City of Refuge"; in other words, give us your tired, your poor foreign criminals who steal and rob that are yearning to be free, and we will let them stay in the City by the Bay.

Foreigners who commit crime should go to jail and then be sent back across the seas where they belong.

And that's just the way it is.

SECURITY BREACH

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a large-scale data breach that was announced just yesterday. A hacker was able to gain access to the database maintained by T.J. Maxx and others, and was able to obtain payment card information stored in the database. Millions of cardholders' records are now potentially compromised, all affecting all major payment card brands.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is under investigation and we do not know all the facts yet, but we do know that this is not the only example, it is only the latest in a long series of breaches. The largest so far was CSSI, and this affected over 40 million cardholders in America. This breach that happened yesterday, or was announced yesterday, may even be larger.

How many more breaches like this will the public tolerate before Congress acts to adopt national data security rules?

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA VS. 100 HOURS AGENDA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, another day, another closed rule governing consideration of legislation in the people's House. The other side likes to highlight the bipartisan support for their so-called 100 hours agenda. But almost 2½ weeks into it, Republicans have yet to be allowed a single amendment on this floor. No committee hearings, no amendments, no alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't have to be this way. In 1995, the process under the new Republican majority was far more open. Just look at the numbers. The Contract with America was comprised of 24 bills. Only three of those bills were considered under a closed rule. Democrats were allowed to offer 154 amendments to the Contract with America legislation and 48 of those amendments passed.

Mr. Speaker, the people's House should be a place where all the people have a voice, opportunity to offer amendments, alternatives, and let the best idea win. Under Democratic rule, that is not the case.

BRINGING SENSE TO THE ENERGY DEBATE, BRINGING JOBS HOME

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen, I would like to talk about the commonsense energy debate that we are going to have today in regard to the bill that we are proposing. Being from the Midwest and from Ohio, I truly believe that our energy costs in Ohio are one of our most significant problems with why we haven't been able to do as much business development as we would like to.